

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:46p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5(a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Ms. Mark seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith; and Mrs. Susan Records.

Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.

Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Mr. Green called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

There were no comments.

IV. Recognition

a. Cole-2014 Scholastic Writing Contest-Silver Key Winner-Laura Murphy

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio discussed the R.I. Technology conference that he attended regarding skill gaps in the workforce. Contacts were made with Envisions and G-Tech regarding building capacity. EG teachers Mrs. Page and Mrs. Dulac also attended the conference. EG Science department chair Mr. Rath will attend the next conference at Save the Bay.

Dr. Mercurio discussed a potential bill regarding social workers that could have a major impact on education and the budget. This unfunded mandate would require one 1.0FTE social worker for every 400 students. The district currently has 1.5 social workers for 2400 students.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #1,3-20, and 22. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #2 and 21 pending final receipt of certification and approval by the Athletic Director.

1. EGHS-Head Coach Baseball-Robert Downey

- 2. EGHS-Assistant Coach Baseball-Marco Neves**
- 3. EGHS-Volunteer Coach Baseball-Steve Whittaker**
- 4. EGHS-Volunteer Coach Baseball-Scott Woodward**
- 5. EGHS-Head Coach Softball-Rob Petrucci**
- 6. EGHS-Assistant Coach Softball-Kerri Fuller**
- 7. EGHS- Volunteer Coach Softball-Doug Mainerio**
- 8. EGHS-Head Coach Boys' Volleyball-Terri Garno**
- 9. EGHS-Head Coach Golf Marc Brocato**
- 10. EGHS-Head Coach Boys' Lacrosse-Brian Trapani**
- 11. EGHS-Assistant Coach Boys' Lacrosse-Chris Callahan**
- 12. EGHS-Volunteer Coach Boys' Lacrosse-Brian Hennessey**
- 13. EGHS-Volunteer Coach-Boys' Lacrosse-Bruce Roberts**
- 14. EGHS-Head Coach Girls' Lacrosse-Karen Lemont**
- 15. EGHS-Assistant Coach Girls' Lacrosse-Kathleen Swanson**
- 16. EGHS-Head Coach Boys' Outdoor Track-Peter Dion**
- 17. EGHS-Assistant Coach Boys' Outdoor Track-Bruce Mastracchio**
- 18. EGHS-Head Coach Girls' Outdoor Track-Erin Newman**
- 19. EGHS-Assistant Coach Girls' Outdoor Track-Kyle Mushaweh**
- 20. EGHS-Head Coach-Boys' Tennis-Marissa Salvatore**
- 21. Cole-Head Coach-Baseball-Nathan LaCroix**
- 22. Cole-Head Coach-Softball-Mark Trosin**

b. FY2015 budget

Last week Mr. Green asked Dr. Mercurio for a list of possible reductions to bring the FY2015 budget in line with historical increases around 2% or so. The budget is due to the town by March 15, 2014. Dr. Mercurio explained the list of proposed reductions.

Supporting documentation, which outlined staffing; Personal Literacy Plans (PLPS); and 2013 NECAP Proficiency rates were discussed. Dr. Mercurio stressed the list of all of the other items are reductions, not eliminations. A placeholder of \$15,000 was allocated for a director/or supervisor for the visual and performing arts. With the proposed reductions, the district is seeking a 2.69% increase over FY2014. This is a 2.19% increase in local taxes. Mr. Green asked the Committee for feedback on the reductions. Dr. Gifford had clarifying questions about the visual/performing arts supervisor, Medicaid reimbursement for nursing services, and gate receipts. Dr. Gifford questioned why gate receipts are not included in local revenue. Mrs. Winters asked if the Committee could review current and past years' receipts. Mr. Green asked Dr. Mercurio to come back with a reconciliation for the past few years showing revenue and expenditures. Dr. Gifford questioned the rationale of purchasing I-pads for kindergarten. Dr. Mercurio explained how classes use the I-pad cart on a rotating basis. I-pads are used for skill building with language, math, problem solving. He explained the various apps that are available and how students gravitate towards I-pads. Dr. Gifford stated there is no current data demonstrating the effectiveness of I-pads and questions this investment. Mrs. Winters questioned the reduction in grounds keeping. Mrs. Crawford said reduction is for planting, mulching, etc. Snow removal is not included in this line. She added that overtime was not used on the snow days because school was cancelled.

c. Adoption of FY2015 budget

The initial FY2015 proposed budget was \$35,874,083. With proposed decreases of \$275,749, the adjusted proposed FY2015 budget is \$35,613,334. This is a 2.69% increase over FY2014. The proposed increase is \$931,283. Of that increase \$695,909 is requested from the town and the remainder of the increase will be sought from state aid and the fund balance. Mr. Sommer made a motion to approve FY2015 budget of \$35,613,334. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

d. Fund Balance Transfer

This item was tabled. Additional information will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.

VIII. Sub Committee Update

a. Health and Wellness Committee

The last meeting took place on February 7, 2014. The Health and Wellness Committee discussed the HUSSC (Healthy U.S. School Challenge) awards with Mr. Giusti and Mrs. Cauley. A presentation is planned for May 22, 2014. The Committee has been discussing the formation of a student advisory committee for the school lunch program. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2014.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 7:50p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY